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S/S # 8119571

DATE July 29, 1981

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Mr. Jack J. Spitzer

DATE: June 10, 1981 SUBJECT: supports Israel's destruction of Iraqi nuclear plant

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: June 23, 1981 NSC 02811

81 JUL 29 P4:32

____ THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

____ A draft reply is attached

____ A draft reply will be forwarded

____ A translation is attached

X An information copy of a direct reply is attached

____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

____ Other

REMARKS:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY WB DATE 1-16-89
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

PA/PC/CM:GDavis:ms
X21393:07/27/81

PA:JO'Neil

L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

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PA/PC/CM:GDavis:ms
X21393:07/23/81

S/S 8119571

LPC:NEA-6/8
PA:JO'Neil

Dear Mr. Spitzer:

I am replying to your message to President Reagan concerning the June 7 Israeli air attack on the nuclear reactor under construction in Tuwaitha, Iraq. I regret the delay in this response and hope the following recapitulation of our decisions and policies will help explain our position.

On June 8, the Department condemned the Israeli air strike, noting that the unprecedented character of this action would seriously add to the already tense situation in the area and complicate our efforts to peacefully resolve problems there. The United States was not consulted in any way about any phase of the operation and was not informed of it in advance.

On June 10, the President suspended the scheduled delivery of four F-16 aircraft to Israel pending further study of the Israeli action and consultations with Congress. That same day, pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, Secretary Haig sent letters to the Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees indicating that a substantial violation of the 1952 U.S.-Israel Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement may have occurred. That agreement includes Israel's assurance that weapons acquired from the United States will be used only to maintain its internal security, its legitimate self-defense, or to permit it to participate in regional or United Nations (U.N.) collective security arrangements and measures. It also provides that Israel will not undertake any act of aggression against any other state. Israel has confirmed that the Israeli Air Force units involved in the air strike were equipped with defense articles furnished by the United States under the Foreign Military Sales program.

Mr. Jack J. Spitzer, President,
B'nai B'rith International,
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036.

On June 19, the United States voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 487 condemning the Israeli attack, making clear our profound concern about the raid's impact on the peace and security of all the nations of the Middle East.

We are reviewing this entire matter and discussing it with the Government of Israel. Neither our condemnation nor the suspension of delivery of the four aircraft is meant to imply that we have reached any determination on the questions raised under U.S. law by Israel's act.

We have carefully noted the Israeli and Iraqi positions. Israel contends that its action against Iraq was a necessary, legitimate act of self-defense because the Iraqi reactor was intended to produce weapons grade material to make atomic bombs. Israel also points out that there is a state of war between the two countries and contends that Iraq had made clear its intention to produce such a weapon for use against Israel.

Iraq, on the other hand, denies that its nuclear program has any application other than the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Iraq points out that it has ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that its reactor and supply of enriched uranium were subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard controls.

The United States does not believe that force can provide the answer to international disputes. Our condemnation of Israel's action was intended to clearly express this view. At the same time, as Ambassador Kirkpatrick made clear before the U.N. Security Council, we remain fully committed to the security and well-being of Israel and to the friendship between our two countries. The United States will continue to do all in its power to achieve a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dean E. Fischer
Assistant Secretary-Designate
for Public Affairs
and Department Spokesman

8119571

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JUNE 23, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 028113

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUNE 10, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. JACK J. SPITZER
PRESIDENT
B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL
1640 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

SUBJECT: WRITER SUPPORTS ISRAELS' DESTRUCTION OF THE IRAQI NUCLEAR PLANT

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

June 10, 1981

8119571

028113

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully submit that Israel's destruction of the Iraqi nuclear plant was a thoroughly justified and defensive response to the extraordinary threat posed by the prospect of a nuclear armed Iraq.

Iraq has threatened Israel with nuclear holocaust. Recently, Al Thawra, the official organ of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, stated that "the Iranian people should not fear the Iraqi nuclear reactor, which is not intended to be used against Iran, but against the Zionist entity."

Israel had exhausted all diplomatic means to discourage certain Western countries from providing Iraq with nuclear technology. Israel had no choice but to take the action it did against Iraq, which has not only remained in a state of war against her since 1948, but is also completely opposed to the existence of Israel.

We believe that Israel's action did not violate any U.S.-Israeli agreement. The action was in her legitimate self-defense. We therefore trust that the United States will continue to fulfill its commitments to Israel.

With every kind wish,

Sincerely,

Jack J. Spitzer

JJS/ee